

SUBJECT TO RULE OF EVIDENCE 406

CONFIDENTIAL AMENDMENT TO
CONFIDENTIAL/TRADE SECRET STIPULATION

This Amendment to the Confidential/Trade Secret Stipulation Between ATI and U S WEST ("Agreement"), is hereby entered into by Qwest Corporation ("Qwest"), formerly known as U S WEST, Inc., and Eschelon Telecom, Inc. ("Eschelon"), formerly known as Advanced Telecommunications, Inc., d/b/a Cady Communications, Inc., Cady Telemanagement, Inc., American Telephone Technology, Inc., Electro-Tel, Inc., and Intelcom, Inc., (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties" when referred to jointly) on this 15th day of November, 2000. This Amendment adds terms to the Confidential/Trade Secret Stipulation Between ATI and U S WEST dated February 28, 2000. The Parties acknowledge the recitals and terms contained in the Confidential/Trade Secret Stipulation Between ATI and U S WEST and seek to resolve differences which existed between the Parties as of that date, and continue as of the date of this Agreement, including differences relating to service quality.

ADDITIONAL RECITALS

1. Disputes have arisen between the Parties as to the effective date of Eschelon's ability to provide services through the unbundled network element ("UNE") platform. Eschelon claims that it was eligible to receive platform rates as of March 1, 2000.
2. Qwest believes that Eschelon was unable to provide services through the unbundled network element platform as of March 1, 2000.
3. In an attempt to finally resolve the issues in dispute and to avoid delay and costly litigation, the Parties voluntarily enter into this Confidential Agreement to resolve all disputes, claims and controversies between the Parties, as of the date of this Confidential Agreement that relate to the matters addressed herein, and Eschelon releases Qwest from any claims regarding the issue as described herein.

CONFIDENTIAL AGREEMENT

1. The Parties enter into this Agreement in consideration for the terms described below, and Eschelon's release of any claims that can or could have been brought against Qwest because Eschelon was providing services through resale of finished services instead of providing service through unbundled network elements. Eschelon claims that it had the right to elect platform prices as of March 1, 2000, while Qwest disagrees with Eschelon's claim, as described above.

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2. Eschelon agrees to purchase from Qwest, under this agreement or any other agreement between the parties, at least \$15 million (fifteen million dollars) of telecommunication services and products between October 1, 2000 and September 30, 2001. In consideration for Eschelon's agreement to make such purchases and for such other good and valuable consideration set forth in this agreement and documented in Qwest's November 15, 2000 letter, Qwest agrees to pay Eschelon \$10 million by no later than November 17, 2000 to resolve all issues, outstanding through the date of execution of this agreement, related to the UNE platform and switched access. Further, Qwest will pay to Eschelon the revenue Qwest billed to IXCs at Qwest's established switched access rates for Eschelon platform end users for usage for the month of October 2000. Qwest will pay this amount to Eschelon within 30 days of the date Qwest receives WTN information for Eschelon for all of October 2000. For any month (or partial month), from November 1, 2000 until the mechanized process is in place, during which Qwest fails to provide accurate daily usage information for Eschelon's use in billing switched access, Qwest will credit Eschelon \$13.00 (or pro rata portion thereof) per Platform line per month as long as Eschelon has provided the WTN information to Qwest. After the mechanized process is in place, Eschelon and Qwest will use the established escalation procedures if a dispute arises. Qwest will credit the IXC and other companies for daily usage traffic that Qwest provides to Eschelon to bill to the IXC (to eliminate double billing).

In the event that Eschelon does not purchase, under this agreement or any other agreement, \$15,000,000.00 (fifteen million dollars) in telecommunications services and/or products within the time frame set forth above, Eschelon shall, by December 31, 2001, make a pro rata refund of the payment received from Qwest.

3. Eschelon shall provide to Qwest consulting and network-related services, including but not limited to processes and procedures relating to wholesale service quality for local exchange service ("Services"). These Services will address numerous items, including loop cutover and conversion, repair, billing and other items agreed upon by the Parties. The Services may include all lines of business and methods of local market entry used by Eschelon. Eschelon agrees to utilize knowledgeable and experienced personnel for the Services. Eschelon further agrees to assign, upon request, up to two full time representatives dedicated to working with the Qwest account team or other Qwest organizations to facilitate handling of provisioning issues. The Parties agree to meet together (via telephone, live conference, or otherwise) as necessary to facilitate provisioning of the Services. Executives from both companies agree to address and discuss the progress of the Services at quarterly meetings to begin in 2001 and continue through the end of 2005. In consideration of Eschelon's agreement to provide Services and for such good and valuable consideration set forth in this agreement, Qwest agrees to pay

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Eschelon an amount that is ten percent (10%) of the aggregate billed charges for all purchases made by Eschelon from Qwest from November 15, 2000 through December 31, 2005. Eschelon will invoice Qwest annually. Payment is due within 30 days of the invoice date. In the event that the Confidential Purchase Agreement between Eschelon and Qwest (as of the same date as this Agreement) is terminated, this paragraph of this Agreement also terminates simultaneously with termination of that Confidential Purchase Agreement and any payments made pursuant to this paragraph as of the date of termination will be promptly returned to Qwest. In addition, if Eschelon fails to meet its purchase commitments under sections 2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 or 2.5 of the Confidential Purchase Agreement, Eschelon will promptly return to Qwest any payments made pursuant to this section.

4. If the Parties fail to finalize the Implementation Plan by April 30, 2001, as required by the Parties' Escalation Procedures Agreement, they agree to immediately terminate the Purchase Agreement, the Confidential Billing Settlement Agreement, this Amendment to the Confidential/Trade Secret Stipulation, the Escalation Procedures Agreement, and the Interconnection Agreement Amendment, all dated November 15, 2000, and cooperate in good faith to determine and promptly return to each other all of the economic benefits each received from the other in consequence of those Agreements. Moreover, all of the claims, whether in law or in equity, that either Party released or discharged in those Agreements shall be restored to them.

5. The Parties will address in their quarterly meetings appropriate price adjustments for the telecommunications services and products purchased by Eschelon and Qwest in the preceding quarter.

6. For valuable consideration mentioned above, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, Eschelon does hereby release and forever discharge Qwest and its associates, owners, stockholders, predecessors, successors, agents, directors, officers, partners, employees, representatives, employees of affiliates, employees of parents, employees of subsidiaries, affiliates, parents, subsidiaries, insurance carriers, bonding companies and attorneys, from any and all manner of action or actions, causes or causes of action, in law, under statute, or in equity, suits, appeals, petitions, debts, liens, contracts, agreements, promises, liabilities, claims, affirmative defenses, offsets, demands, damages, losses, costs, claims for restitution, and expenses, of any nature whatsoever, fixed or contingent, known or unknown, past and present asserted or that could have been asserted or could be asserted in any way relating to or arising out of the disputes/matters addressed in "Additional Recitals" paragraphs 1 and 2 above, including all disputes related to the UNE platform and switched access.

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7. The terms and conditions contained in this Confidential Agreement shall inure to the benefit of, and be binding upon, the respective successors, affiliates and assigns of the Parties.

8. Eschelon hereby covenants and warrants that it has not assigned or transferred to any person any claim, or portion of any claims which is released or discharged by this Confidential Agreement.

9. The Parties agree that they will keep the substance of the negotiations and/or conditions of this settlement and the terms or substance of this Confidential Agreement strictly confidential. The Parties further agree that they will not communicate (orally or in writing) or in any way disclose the substance of the negotiations and/or conditions of this settlement and the terms or substance of this Agreement to any person, judicial or administrative agency or body, business, entity or association or anyone else for any reason whatsoever, without the prior express written consent of the other Party unless compelled to do so by law or unless Eschelon pursues an initial public offering, and then only to the extent that disclosure by Eschelon is necessary to comply with the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. In the event Eschelon pursues an initial public offering, it will: (1) first notify Qwest of any obligation to disclose some or all of this Confidential Agreement; (2) provide Qwest with an opportunity to review and comment on Eschelon's proposed disclosure of some or all of this Confidential Agreement; and (3) apply for confidential treatment of the Confidential Agreement. It is expressly agreed that this confidentiality provision is an essential element of this Confidential Agreement and negotiations, and all matters related to these matters, shall be subject to Rule 408 of the Rules of Evidence, at the federal and state level.

10. In the event either Party initiates arbitration or litigation regarding the terms of this agreement or has a legal obligation which requires disclosure of the terms and conditions of this Confidential Agreement, the Party having the obligation shall immediately notify the other Party in writing of the nature, scope and source of such obligation so as to enable the other Party, at its option, to take such action as may be legally permissible so as to protect the confidentiality provided in this Agreement.

11. This Confidential Agreement constitutes an agreement between the Parties and can only be changed in a writing or writings executed by both Parties. Each of the Parties forever waives all right to assert that this Confidential Agreement was the result of a mistake in law or in fact.

12. This Confidential Agreement shall be interpreted and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Minnesota, and shall not be interpreted in favor or against any Party to this Agreement.

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13. The Parties have entered into this Confidential Agreement after conferring with legal counsel.

14. In the event that any provision of this Confidential Agreement should be declared to be unenforceable by any administrative agency or court of law, either Party may initiate an arbitration under the provisions of section 14 below within 90 days of such declaration, to determine the impact of such declaration on the remainder of this Confidential Billing Settlement Agreement. The arbitrator shall have the authority to determine the materiality of the provision and any appropriate remedies, including voiding the agreement in its entirety. If neither Party initiates such an arbitration within 90 days, the remainder of the Confidential Agreement shall remain in full force and effect, and shall be binding upon the Parties hereto as if the invalidated provisions were not part of this Confidential Agreement.

15. Any claim, controversy or dispute between the Parties in connection with this Confidential Agreement shall be resolved by private and confidential arbitration conducted by a single arbitrator engaged in the practice of law under the then current rules of the American Arbitration Association. The arbitration shall be conducted in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Each Party shall have the right to seek from a court of appropriate jurisdiction equitable or provisional remedies (such as temporary restraining orders, temporary injunctions, and the like) before arbitration proceedings have been commenced and an arbitrator has been selected. Once an arbitrator has been selected and the arbitration proceedings are continuing, thereafter the sole jurisdiction with respect to equitable or provisional remedies shall be remanded to the arbitrator. Any arbitrator shall be a retired judge or an attorney who has been licensed to practice for at least ten (10) years and is currently licensed to practice in the state of Minnesota. The arbitrator shall be selected by the Parties within fifteen (15) business days after a request for arbitration has been made by one of the Parties hereto. If the Parties are unable to agree among themselves, the Parties shall ask for a panel of arbitrators to be selected by the American Arbitration Association. If the Parties are unable to select a sole arbitrator from the panel supplied by the American Arbitration Association within ten (10) business days after such submission, the American Arbitration Association shall select the sole arbitrator. The Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. §§ 1-16, not state law, shall govern the arbitrability of all disputes. The arbitrator shall only have the authority to determine breach of this Agreement and award appropriate damages, but the arbitrator shall not have authority to award punitive damages. The arbitrator's decision shall be final and binding and may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. Each Party shall bear its own costs and attorneys' fees and shall share equally in the fees and expenses of the arbitrator, except that the arbitrator shall have the discretion award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs in favor of a Party if, in the opinion of the arbitrator, the dispute arose because the other Party was not acting in good faith.

16. The Parties acknowledge and agree that they have a legitimate billing dispute about the issues described in this Confidential Agreement and that the resolution reached in this Agreement represents a compromise of the Parties' positions. Therefore, the Parties agree that resolution of the issues contained in this Agreement cannot be used against the other Party, including but not limited to admissions.

17. This Confidential Agreement may be executed in counterparts and by facsimile.

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IN WITNESS THEREOF, the Parties have caused this Confidential Agreement to be executed as of this 15th day of November 2000.

Escheion Telecom, Inc.

By: [Signature]

Title: President - CEO

Date: 11/15/00

Qwest Corporation

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

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IN WITNESS THEREOF, the Parties have caused this Confidential Agreement to be executed as of this 15th day of November 2000.

Eschelon Telecom, Inc.

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Qwest Corporation

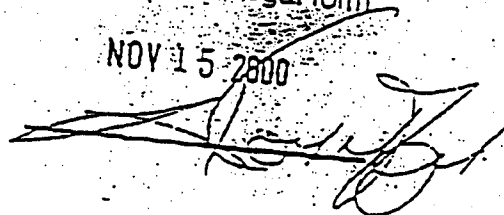
By: _____

Title: EVP

Date: 11-15-00

Approved as to legal form

NOV 15 2000



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